THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st February 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Malabar Elementary School teachers

* 884 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that treasury officers of Malabar refused to cash the pay bills of elementary school teachers for December 1954 and if so, why?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The salary bills of aided elementary school teachers could not be passed in some sub-treasuries in Malabar on account of the disbandment of the staff employed for direct payment of salaries consequent on the introduction of the payment of teachers' salaries by money order. The Collector has since instructed to have all the pending bills passed by the sub-treasuries and things will be set right in a few days."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In a press statement issued by the Malabar Teachers' Union, it is stated that the bills that were stayed for want of facilities in the sub-treasuries should be cashed before 22nd February 1955. Are the Government aware that the fixing of such a time-limit will cause great hardship? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sure all the technical difficulties will be got over and the payment will be made."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Did this happen for want of clarity in the order or due to some wrong interpretation put upon the order by the officers concerned? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We passed orders that in future payments might be made by money order. Therefore the staff intended for the disbursement of salary through sub-treasuries was asked to be disbanded. Nobody took notice of the fact that there were some pending bills. That was the difficulty. The work could have been carried out even with the remaining staff. But since the staff intended for that purpose was disbanded, everybody disclaimed responsibility. I have since asked the Collector to see that the bills are paid with the staff now existing."

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SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" In view of the fact that the persons affected are very poorly paid and cases of delay in the payment of their salary are occurring often will the Government see that such cases do not occur in future? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Such cases are not occurring often. Evidently the hon. Member does not know the circumstances under which there was some delay in this case. The salaries were being disbursed through the management. The teachers did not want this and they wanted payment direct to themselves. We ordered payment to the teachers direct by the sub-treasuries. The teachers represented that it was difficult for them to go to the sub-treasury every time and that payment might be made to them by money order. We obliged them by accepting their suggestion. Therefore there is no question of such a thing recurring. It is on the representation of the teachers themselves that these changes were made."

Discharge of workers in the Transport Department

* 683[a] *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the number of City Transport Bus Workers discharged as a measure of punishment during 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sixty-three Government Transport workers were discharged from service as a measure of punishment during 1953–54."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" சிறிய சிறிய குற்றங்களுக்கெல்லாம் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலையிலிருந்து நீக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். சாதாரண சிறிய குற்றங்களைச் செய்தாலும் அதற்காக தொழிலாளர்களை வேலையிலிருந்தே நீக்குவதற்குப் பதிலாக அபராதம் விதிப்பது போன்ற சிறிய தண்டனை கொடுக்கும்படியான முறையை அனுஷ்டிக்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Punishments depend upon the gravity of the offence committed by these people. I do not know to which case the hon. Member refers."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தொழிலாளிகள் வேலையிலிருந்து நீக்கப்படுவதற்கு முன் அதிகாரிகளிடம் நேரடியாகவோ அல்லது தொழிற் சங்கப் பிரதிநிதிகளின் மூலமாகவோ தங்களுடைய குறைகளை எடுத்துச் சொல்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் அனுமதித்திருக்கிறார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There is no need for the association or the union to interfere in matters like this. Whenever we find that the staff has misbehaved or committed some mistake or irregularity, disciplinary action is taken and in certain cases punishments are inflicted."

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[a] Postponed from the list for 14th February 1955.